

Zion's Herald

The Negro

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Zion's Herald.

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THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

Let him in
That standeth there alone
And waiteth at the door.
There's a new foot on the floor, my friend,
And a new face at the door, my friend,
A new face at the door.

—Tennyson.

I watch the old moon in its slow decline.
So pass Old Year, beyond life's stormy sea!
What's he waiting the New Year bring to me
I know's 'tis ordered by a Hand divine.
So, fearless, 'mid the wild bales mingled din,
I open the door and let the New Year in!

—Independent.

Still on — as silent as a ghost!
Seems but a score of days, all told,
Or but a month or two at most.
Since we last met, a song we trod,
And lo! that New Year now is here.
Brief words — and yet, we scarce know why,
They bring a moisture to the eye.
— And so, with many sorrows and aches;
We speak them very tenderly,
With half a sob and half a sigh —
"Old Year, good-bye! Old Year, good-bye!"

—W. H. Burleigh.

Oh! weep for the year that is fled!
The dear, old year that is ours no more,
That stands aloof on the phantom shore
With the ghosts of scenes that have gone before.
Yet we weep in vain,
For never again
Shall live the Old Year that is dead.

—Grace Denio Litchfield.

THE OUTLOOK.

Three world's fairs are announced for 1888. Notices of invitation to two of them — one at Melbourne, and another at Barcelona — were sent to Congress, before the recess, by Secretary Bayard, with a request for an immediate appropriation of \$50,000 to be expended in representing this country's products and industries at the former, which is shortly to be held. The third, more special and limited in its character, will be opened in Vienna. From a commercial point of view these expositions offer great advantages. They might be utilized, more than they are, for the cause of truth and righteousness, if the children of light were only "as wise in their generation" as the children of this world.

The Abyssinians have assumed the aggressive, and are confronting the Italian force at Massowah in three divisions. The evident purpose of King John is to choose his own ground, to prevent at all hazards the Italians from reaching the high plateau, which, about forty miles from the sea, rises to a height of from six to eight thousand feet. By confining them to the lowlands, he knows very well that the deadly fever, which is already raging among the fresh recruits from Italy, will now down or disable more troops than he can reach with bullet or spear. The Italian leader, however, is on the alert, and has probably ere this started to cut his way through to the highlands. A bloody strife is imminent, and many lives will be sacrificed — for no other reason than that Italy may have a chance to recover her lost prestige, and win, if possible, a foothold on African soil.

Korea, acting on permission granted by China to enter into independent diplomatic relations with foreign powers, has accredited to this country two high officials, with Dr. H. N. Allen (of the Presbyterian mission) as foreign secretary. Just before embarking on board the U. S. S. "Omaha" for Japan, the Chinese authorities changed their minds and forbade the departure of the embassy, under threat of war in case their injunctions were disregarded. The officials, however, proceeded on their course, and, at last accounts, had reached Yokohama. There will be a delicate question for our State department to settle, if, when these Korean representatives reach Washington, China protests, through her legation, against a vassal power being officially recognized.

Tidings of trouble come from the Pacific Isles. The Germans are not succeeding well in their arbitrary seizure of the Samoan group. The natives have been submissive, hoping that Great Britain or the United States would interfere in their behalf. But that hope is now quenched, and they are growing restive and threatening. The Society Islands are also disturbed. The French, not to be outdone by the Germans, have forcibly possessed themselves of Raiatea. After bombarding the villages, they landed and seized the island, threatening the chiefs with punishment unless they submitted to French authority, thus changing their protectorate to annexation. Hawaii is also in trouble — on the verge, in fact, of another revolution. King Kalakaua and the Legislature are pitted against each other, the former exercising his constitutional right to veto certain bills, and referring the cases to the Supreme Court which failed to agree, the latter adopting resolutions denying the King's right to veto. The natives, of course, side with Kalakaua, whom they consider ill-treated, and stripped of his rights. There is no indication that our country will follow French and German example and annex the Sandwich Islands, but it would be a happy day for that perturbed kingdom if we felt free to do so.

Mr. Powderly, it appears, had nothing to do with the gigantic strike ordered upon the Reading

Road, which threatened to throw out of employment in midwinter from forty to sixty thousand men, and to cause an incalculable amount of suffering. He had not sufficiently recovered his strength after his enfeebling illness, to be permitted to have any voice in the matter. The Executive Board of the Knights of Labor has been playing a desperate game — with what motive, it is difficult to see. Ostensibly the trouble arose from the refusal of train hands who were members of the order to deliver freight to a firm which employed non-union men, or to handle coal which had been mined by non-union men; but there must have been a deeper reason for so serious an attitude of hostility. President Corbin, of the Reading corporation, has behaved with proper spirit and firmness throughout, declaring that he has no opposition to unionism, but declining to turn over the control of the railroad to its employees, and refusing to re-employ strikers. He has found no difficulty in replacing those who have abandoned their work.

Now that the war clouds in Europe are dissipating, attention is being drawn to the railroads across the Balkan peninsula which were provided for in the Berlin treaty, and which are nearing completion. In about two months the Servian and Bulgarian sections will be united with that of Turkey, and Constantinople will be accessible by rail to Paris or Berlin — an event of highest importance, not only to the countries concerned, but to Europe at large. An immediate and healthy impulse will doubtless be felt in these unhappy provinces, doomed by their geographical position to be kept in constant fear of being swallowed up by Russia. Bulgaria, indeed, takes occasion to assert more firmly her independence, by passing in the Sobranje a bill authorizing the government to conclude treaties of commerce with all countries, and another to issue a loan of \$10,000,000 for railway construction.

About all that could be said, for and against, on the question of commercial union with Canada, was uttered by the speakers, gathered from all parts of the country and from the Dominion, at the dinner given by the Merchants' Association of this city last week. There was a striking lack of unanimity in the views expressed, as, indeed, might have been expected from the various economic and political affiliations represented, and the extreme complexity of the subject. The reading public has reason, however, to be grateful to the Association for this ventilation of a question which is pressing daily for a solution. From the diverging views expressed, the real obstacles in the way of a trade union are more clearly defined, and its advantages and disadvantages better understood. We have not space in a brief paragraph to even indicate the one or the other, but we doubt not that when the matter is seriously considered between the two countries, this symposium of opinion will be found valuable for reference and suggestion.

O strong New Year, to us be kind!
Give Truth and Life, we ask not more;
We leave the vanquish behind;
We reach for fuller light before.

—Dora Read Goodale.

THE METHODIST WORLD.

Abroad.

England. — Rev. Hugh Price Hughes told his congregation recently, that no man has a right to call himself an English gentleman who would shake hands with John L. Sullivan. This shot was meant for the Prince of Wales. — The West St. Chapel in London, where John Wesley preached his first sermon, together with the portable pulpit which he used to use in the open air, were recently sold. — The West London Mission continues to grow. At some of the services St. James Hall has been filled to overflowing. The missions on a similar scale now being held in Manchester and Birmingham attract congregations which could not be accommodated in any of the chapels.

Germany. — In connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church in Germany there is a very benevolent institution called the Bethany Union of Deaconesses. The work of this Union is among the hospitals, and in behalf of fallen women. It has a membership of 81. During the year, 167 sick people have been tended and relieved in the Frankfort Home. Instruction in the theory and practice of the work has been given to nine sisters in two courses of lessons, and ten others have passed the requisite time in actual work in the Berlin Hospital; twenty-five sisters have been at work at Hanover, and two others have devoted themselves specially to fallen women; twenty sisters have been at work in the relief of the poor and sick in Berlin, St. Gall three, and in Zurich three.

Singapore. — The first Malay woman who was led to Christ by Miss Blackmore, of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. When a child she and her father were captured by cannibals. The father was killed and eaten. The daughter was subsequently rescued by a trader, whose wife cared for her and brought her up. She is said to be "devoid, child-like, and truly converted." — **Australia.** — The Victorian Wesleyan Home Mission Fund this year reaches £3,000, the largest contribution yet made by the colony for this purpose.

— As next year is the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the colony of New South Wales, the colonial district meetings have been making certain recommendations to the next Conference, respecting a proposed Centennial Fund, for the erection and endowment of a college, and the payment of church debts, which amount to £70,000.

Fiji Islands. — There are now connected with the Wesleyan mission stations in Fiji about 23,000 church members. The Sabbath is sacredly observed. In every Christian family there is morning and evening worship. Over 43,000 children are instructed in the 1,500 schools.

China. — At the annual meeting of the North China Mission it was resolved to petition the General Conference to authorize the organization of an annual Conference to be known as the North China Annual Conference. — Robert C. Beebe, M. D., of Nanking, is reported as writing: "If in your campaign the coming year you can find a man who says he does not believe that foreign missions pay, please tell him that there are Chinamen on the other side of the world, who are even worse heathen than he, who will not agree with him. His Excellency the Viceroy of

the Liang Kiang (three provinces of his jurisdiction) has just given me 120 Mexican dollars for the hospital."

Japan. — A gracious revival is now in progress in our Methodist Church in Yokohama, Japan, and also in the Aoyama College in Tokyo. In the former place more than one hundred had accepted Christ up to Nov. 13, and in the Aoyama more than sixty converts were reported to that date. But five students remained unsaved on Nov. 14. — It is proposed to separate Japanese Methodism from American Methodism, and thus form a National Japanese Methodist Church. All the Protestant denominations of Japan are pervaded with this desire for an independent national existence, and they are encouraged in this by the Government.

Canada. — The proposed new Methodist church on St. Catherine Street, Montreal, will be, when completed, a magnificent structure. The new property for building purposes cost \$70,000. The dimensions of the new church will be 233 feet in length by 106 feet in breadth. It will have seating accommodation for 2,500 persons, and the school-room will hold 1,000. The total cost of land and building will be about \$300,000. The corner-stone was laid in June last.

West Indies. — In the eastern part of the West Indies there are 50 Wesleyan ministers, of whom 26 are native; 22,787 members, 1,036 on trial; 765 junior members, 147,003 Sunday-scholars, and 138,000 day-scholars.

Mexico. — Says the *Abogado*: "The Annual Conference of our mission will meet in this capital on the 26th of January, under the presidency of Bishop Bowman."

At Home.

California. — Bishop Warren and company, his wife, Mrs. Cordelia Miller and Mr. Iliff, arrived on the "City of Sydney," Dec. 15. They had a quick and pleasant return trip. The Bishop reports our work in China as most hopeful. The missionaries are all encouraged. The revival in Japan goes forward with increasing power. Bishop Warren and family will return to Denver in a few days. — Rev. Dr. Otis Gibson still lingers. He is conscious and knows his friends, and understands conversation, but can speak but little, and has not much strength. He does not suffer except at intervals. He is patient, and his trust in God is complete. — Bishop Fowler has appointed President Hirst of the University of the Pacific, pastor of the new University Church just organized. It will be for the present at the University, but will have quarters of its own after awhile. It will be midway between San Jose and Santa Clara. It will begin with a membership of about eighty.

Utah. — The Salt Lake Tribune of December 4 records the finishing of the new Scandinavian M. E. Church at Salt Lake City. It is a Gothic building, 60x70, with a 75 foot tower. Rev. P. H. Franklin managed it. The church cost \$10,000.

Colorado. — Methodism is prospering in Colorado. A spirit of revival prevails in many parts of the State, and a number of new churches are being erected.

Illinois. — The twentieth annual meeting of the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was recently held in Chicago. Bishop Warren, president of the Society, presided. To carry out the work on the plan proposed for next year will require almost \$250,000. Since its formation the Society has expended almost \$2,000,000 in the work of education in the South, and has school property of almost \$1,000,000 in value in its possession. Dr. Earl Cranston, treasurer of the Society, reported that the entire receipts for the year were \$184,424.55.

Ohio. — Rev. C. B. Branderup, a superannuated member of the Central Ohio Conference, died of paralysis, at Delaware, O., Dec. 13. He was in his 75th year.

Virginia. — Rev. Dr. A. D. F. Ewell, of the Methodist Protestant Church in Virginia, has recently been elected to the Legislature of that State, by a handsome vote.

Pennsylvania. — Rev. Dr. James Porter spent a few weeks recently in Philadelphia with Dr. H. A. Cleveland, pastor of Fifth St. Church, in an pastoral visit. Afterward he spent ten days with the First Church in Germantown. — The cornerstone of the Thirteenth St. Church, Philadelphia (a union of the Central with the Nazareth Church), was laid, with appropriate ceremonies, Dec. 12. — The sale of the old Union Church property on Fourth St. below Arch, Philadelphia, was recently effected for the sum of \$40,000. The new Union Church will soon be erected at Twentieth and Diamond Streets.

New Jersey. — The Ocean Grove Record devotes a large portion of its issue of Dec. 24 to an account of the obsequies of "Mother Taylor," the mother of Rev. Dr. Geo. Lansing Taylor, who died at Ocean Grove, Dec. 14, at the age of 75 years. — Rev. James Brads, an honored member of the Baltimore Annual Conference, died, Dec. 18, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Brooks, in Orange, N. J., aged 73 years. Brother Brads entered the Baltimore Conference in 1836, when just twenty-one years of age. Such is our widening field.

New York. — Rev. Samuel Salaberry, pastor of the M. E. church in Constantia, Oswego Co., N. Y., and for thirty-eight years an honored member of the old Black River and Northern New York Conference, died in Constantia last week, in the 66th year of his age. His remains were taken to Pulaski for interment. — The pastor of Cornell Memorial Methodist Church of New York city, Rev. J. B. Hamilton, gives the result of a careful house-to-house canvass of his parish, which is on the East Side up-town, and contains 10,000 voters. He reached 9,375 families, ascertaining the business and religious connections of each, as far as possible. He has 968 in business, 148 have saloons. Of the 9,375 families he classifies 6,131 as unevangelical, 3,050 as evangelical, and 194 as unknown. The unevangelical class is made up of 4,797 Catholic families, 1,826 Jewish, 202 non-church, 4 Socialist, 3 Unitarian, 4 Universalist, 2 Ethical Culture, 2 Buddhist, and 4 Atheist. — *Independent.*

ECHOES FROM THE FREEDMEN'S AID ANNIVERSARY.

We are indebted to the supplemental sheet of the Northwestern, of Dec. 21 for the following extracts. We may remark, in passing, that we can recall no similar occasion in our church history which has evoked more eloquent addresses than those given in connection with this anniversary.

Rev. W. H. Hickman, of Crawfordsville, Ind., took for his topic "Black Samson and the American Republic." He said: —

You remember Caesar divided all Gaul into four parts; but our South-land is divided into four parts. Not on the face of geography by mountains, rivers, and valleys, but none the less distinct and pronounced the face of races and in the hearts of men. There are the aristocratic class, rich and ruling, high bred and honorable, and in many respects fine spec-

mens of manhood and womanhood. 2. There is the middle class, industrious, clever, business-like, and with a good measure of thrift and contentment. 3. The third class is the freedmen or negro class, endowed with physical ability and endurance, gifted in certain mind and heart qualities, and within the radius of these gifts and capabilities, he is praiseworthy, generous and manly. Fourth, last, and lowest of all, the very poor whites; the man who is between the negro and the soil he cultivates. Slavery was a very great wrong to the black man, but a greater wrong to the white man. The negro is far below right manhood. He is rude, coarse, superstitious, and ignorant, caused largely by the oppressive hand of 240 years of object slavery; but the poor white man, the white trash man, who seldom shared in the ill-gotten gain, the blood-money of the slave traffic, is to-day under the black man, with no ambition for better things — thrifless, worthless, degraded. The ruling class can get without any help from us, though our presence there is a blessing to them in many ways, as they reluctantly acknowledge. Not so with the other classes, and especially the colored class. They must be stimulated, directed, helped in right enterprise and Protestant Christian education by the people of the North, or they, Samson-like, will go down in shame, captives to diabolical forces, and in their fall they will take down with them the pillars of our Republic.

The danger from Romanism was thus treated:

After intriguing against every government in the world and being driven out of every land under the sun except ours, the Jesuits are gathering in our land and plotting against our public schools seeking preferment through politicians and trying to control legislation, having the overthrow of the Republic as the ultimate aim. For this end they seek the negro because he has a vote, as some of their priests said recently. They meet him on a level. They do not haggle over the "color line." They meet the black man's superstitution with a cunning not equalled by any other human method, and they please his love of gaudy display with a ritualism as captivating as it is dangerous and deceptive. Popery can come more nearly getting the negro his rights, when those rights are in harmony with the sinister motives of that church, than can any other organization in the South. It is a mystery, wonder, therefore, that a certain colored orator advises his people to go into the Catholic Church in order to get their rights?

The speaker alluded to the sympathy of the freedmen for the Methodist Episcopal Church: — We have a place in the freedmen's sympathy that no other church has, and therefore we can get his confidence and win his heart more easily. He knows that the Methodist Episcopal Church was the first great church to put a clause in its Discipline against slavery. He knows that this church split upon the question of his freedom. He knows that the ministers of the North half of this church made the land ripe for '84 to '86 with the declarations that the negro was a man — a brother; that God created all men of one blood, and therefore slavery was a crime against man and God. The black man knows that what Mr. Lincoln said was true; that the Methodist Episcopal Church sent more men to the army and more prayers to heaven, in the hour of battle for his freedom, than any other church in this Union.

The freedmen take to our doctrines and methods of salvation. Our spirit and enthusiasm with our warm, impulsive, courageous heart. If the Methodist Church or the Baptist Church cannot save him, it is little use for others to try. It may be truly said that the negro is born a patriot in politics and a Methodist or Baptist in religion, and God will hold these great churches largely responsible for his elevation.

Dr. J. C. Hartzell, speaking on "Our Widening Field," sounded a note of warning: —

I am no almanac, but when I see the concentration of tremendous influence among the ruling white classes of the South, upon an open and determined system of legislation in State and church and school, which forbids the most intelligent negro gentleman or lady ordinary privileges of polite and refined society, except as permitted by some white person, it is time to be still. Plain, honest, and, wherever need be, heroic words, followed by prudent yet positive lines of right action now, will save untold trouble in the future. Let it be recorded to the credit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as represented by her last General Conference, and in the board of managers of this Society, that no equivocal ground is occupied. In twenty-five years there will be 50,000,000 of negroes in America. That means that the children of freedmen of to-day will be the parents of 50,000,000 negro American citizens! What will be their condition morally, socially, as citizens of our republic? No more momentous question faces the Christian Church of America than this, and no other factor will determine the answer to that question more certainly than the Christian schools of the South during the next twenty years. Such is our widening field.

President Raymond, of Lawrence University, Wisconsin, unfolded the idea that "this is God's time for the colored sons of Ham": — God has to do with the seasons and races. Some of them are hastened, some are belated; but in God's time and in God's name every race must have its opportunity. Our God, who is so painstaking for utilitarian results in this world of ours; who gives the flowing river, which flows so as to afford a factory wheel to turn for the service of man; who gives the electric power which enc

Miscellaneous.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

BY REV. R. WHITNEY, D. D.

BOSTONIANS IN WASHINGTON.

THE General Conference of the Evangelical Alliance, held in the Congregational Church, Washington, D. C., Dec. 7 to 9, is already an old story. But although a comparatively old story in an intensely feverish and stirring age, when every morning brings fresh and exciting matter to the attention of newspaper readers, the record of that session's proceedings will be read with renewed interest when the volume recording them is given to the public. The modesty of Bostonian readers and correspondents of ZION'S HERALD doubtless prevents them from saying all that ought to be said in praise of their deliverances on that occasion. One correspondent, who was silent then, may speak now. In breadth, depth, lucidity and power of thought and expression, each and all did ample honor to the modern Athens. They are worthy descendants of that notable class of New England settlers who, as Orestes A. Brownson said, brought with them to these shores "the dissidence of dissent, and the protestantism of Protestants." This characterization was unquestionably just, so far as the minority is concerned. Every man thought for himself, exercised the right and duty of private judgment in his search for right and truth, and endeavored to arrive at settled conclusions on all subjects. The result was a philosophic and religious diversity as marked as those of their faces, while the real spiritual life within them was unitary as that of the physical which animated their bodies.

DR. DORCHESTER ON CITY PERIL.

Dr. Dorchester, Baldwin, and Rogers (the last ought to be a Doctor, if he isn't one; many less worthy wear the title) investigated, deliberate, decide, and speak, each for himself; and in speaking for himself each speaks for a multitude who have followed on the same or collateral tracks. Whether the whole of Dr. Dorchester's essay on "The City as a Peril," will be published in his forthcoming volume on "Christianity in the United States from the First Settlement to the Present Time," we do not know. It is undoubtedly worthy of it. Some portions were omitted in the reading, lest he should infringe on fields committed to the exploration of other essayists. This excellent precedent was not always followed. Possibly the speakers thought there was sufficient room in each field for more than one investigator. However, if orators on such occasions do occasionally cross the lines of their respective studia, it is no more than what the prismatic colors are wont to do. The blending gives the pure white light.

The simple truth is what Dr. Dorchester sought to present. Indications, such as the patronage of bruiser Sullivan by Mayor O'Brien and the Prince of Wales, are significant. Both in Boston and in London there are perils from the brutal savagery of depraved and dangerous men; perils more dangerous, it is thought, in Boston than in London, because the majority of its inhabitants are of foreign parentage, while in London only 13.5 per cent. of the people were born outside the British Isles. The very heterogeneity of the American people, as at present composed, is probably an element of hope. Sixty-five different languages are spoken in the city of New York, possibly in Boston. History shows that those who converse in them do not readily combine. The race antipathies, the different educations, the divergent aspirations of Celt, Saxon, Slav, Magyar, and Fine, are a weltering muck through which the steady purpose to spread Scriptural holiness will force its way, and in forcing its way assimilate all and assign each to its proper place in the body politic. Dr. McPherson of Chicago quoted Victor Hugo's statement that cities are like sewers—the receptacles of the exhaust of humanity—with approval. This is doubtless partly true; but it is also true, as shown by the applied chemistry of European cities, that even the sewage may be converted into the means of increased fertility to fields and gardens. God, through His Word and Spirit, works greater miracles in the realm of mind than man possibly can in that of nature. Something of such reasoning must have been in the mind of Dr. Dorchester when, amid the applause of the auditory, he closed with the advice to "capture and hold the cities."

DR. BALDWIN AND THE CHINESE.

Dr. Baldwin's sympathies are always with the "under dog in the fight," as a bishop is wont to designate the party that is getting the worst of the conflict. It would only be right to modify this statement by adding the qualification—if the prostrate canine have the right on his side! Many a cur that receives a whipping richly deserves it. But the Chinamen do not deserve the remorseless whipping received at the hands of "feller-citizens" who are neither of Boston nor American birth and breeding. Practically these latter are Anarchists, even though they never heard the devil's gospel according to Convict Most. Restriction of immigration ought to have begun at Sandy Hook instead of the Golden Gate, Dr. Baldwin says. And he is right. The Chinese are more desirable accretions to the body politic than Anarchists of any name. But neither Chinese nor Anarchists seem capable of real assimilation—or passing as secretions into the national organism; or if they are, it is at such cost of vital force that severe and prolonged dyspepsia is pretty sure to follow. Dyspepsia is often known as the "blues," and the Chinese and Anarchists together have brought on a worse fit of this complaint than even the speakers at the Conference were willing to admit. Both classes need the Gospel, but there are lots of kindly-disposed Americans who would rather take, or would prefer sending to taking, the Gospel to them.

MR. E. H. ROGERS.

Not the least respectfully and thoughtfully heard by that vast concourse of representative men and women from every part of Anglo-Saxon Christendom was Mr. E. H. Rogers, of Chelsea, Mass., member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of which Dr. Dorchester is pastor. Introduced as a practical working-man, and a representative of workingmen (alas! only of the saving remnant), he revealed breadth of thought and force of reason that commanded universal respect. Not many, perhaps, would or could endorse

his Scriptural hermeneutics, but would arrive at his goal by another route through the same territory. He had evidently studied political economy, and in one of its familiar aphorisms: "Labor cost is the measure of price," stated the real difficulty in respect of profits and wages. If, as he says, human labor cannot be treated as a commodity, it is because those who decline thus to treat it are governed by a higher law than that of the modern political economy of material facts. Even prominent Christian men in New York, much more the mere secularists, are known to assert that either manual or mental labor is entitled to no greater rewards than what it can obtain by competition in the open market. Necessity, says Mr. Rogers, compels workingmen to accept what is essential to their condition—wages that will enable the worker to subsist. The iron law of supply and demand inevitably reduces wages to the lowest minimum on which the worker can maintain his efficiency—and that without making any provision for the reproduction of his species. Single under-married men in the labor market, and thus break down the family. Machine power equal to that of one man costs only thirty-five cents *per diem* in Massachusetts to-day. Labor is competing with dummies rather than with Chinamen. Let it compete. Let the dummies produce all they can. Such competition cheapens prices while it increases the sum of human comfort. The purchasing power of wages is of more consequence than the nominal amount. Five hundred years ago four cents a day were high wages in England, and less than twenty-five years ago four hundred dollars a day in script wouldn't have purchased as much in the moribund Confederacy as those four cents used to do in the mother country.

Singularly eloquent and able, theocentric, and withal somewhat mystical, Mr. Rogers is certainly right in looking for the solution of all difficulties in the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, and particularly in the Sermon on the Mount. Wines' "Commentaries on the Hebrew Laws" is one of his studies. The spirit of those laws, expanding and brightening through consecutive dispensations until it shone with meridian splendor in the Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world, must be applied to all the relations of life in order to ease pressure, relieve friction, and facilitate felicitous motion.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

Not the least auspicious among the signs of the times is the disposition of George, of McGlynn, of W. T. Croadale, and of many others called cranks, because of their devotion to single ideas, to seek the solution of all enigmas by the application of pure Christian ethics. The statement does not imply endorsement of anything they say or do, except of this single avowed practice. Whether they do apply Christian ethics in the wisest way possible, is matter on which opinions may differ; on the propriety of application there is no room for variance.

METHODISM ACTIVE.

New York, like Boston, is soon to have a Methodist Episcopal Social Union. It ought to have had one fifty years ago. The presiding elder of the New York District is responsible for the statement that this year's collections in aid of the New York City Church Extension and Missionary Society are eleven thousand dollars more than they were last year. So true is it that "God buries His workmen, but carries on His work." Phenomena are fleeting, but the basic of phenomena is permanent. The Church of our Saviour (Methodist Episcopal), 109th St. and Madison Avenue, greatly needs, and is to have, a church edifice. Hitherto it has worshipped in the chapel. The new West Harlem Church—free, except as seats are assigned to permanent attendants—is crowded. Another church is needed in that section of the city.

Even yesterday past growth hoary,
Allied to traditions of old,
Partaking the gloom and the glory,
The past unbroken, we hold
And the New Year, with breathless to-morrows,
With raptures and yearnings and sighs,
Defeats and disasters and sorrows,
Has Eden's lost youth in our eyes.
—Margaret E. Sangster.

THE SCRIPTURAL IDEA OF A CALL TO THE MINISTRY.

BY REV. T. F. FROST.

(Concluded.)

TUSCULUM appears that the Scriptures represent a call to the ministry as divine, personal, clear, and imperative. Now what does the Bible teach concerning the way in which the call may be expected to come? Very likely careful study of the Word will lead to the conclusion that the call may be expected to come in the unexpected way. God's thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are His ways our ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways higher than our ways, and His thoughts than our thoughts. He moves through these higher ways and thoughts, and out of them calls men to the ministries of His kingdom. He makes those calls to be understood by loyal subjects, but the ways in which they come are legion. Moses beholds a flaming bush; Samuel hears a voice in the night; Elisha receives a mantle torn from an ascending chariot; Matthias is called to the apostleship by lot; Saul is blinded by a lightning flash, and then accosted by a voice from the right hand of the Majesty on high. But the day to expect such miracles in the sensuous sphere is past. Men have learned that the mind has a keener vision than the eye, the soul a quicker hearing for celestial sounds than the ear. A call to God's service can no longer be tested by such a token as a bowl of water squeezed from fleece. A decision must now be reached by spiritual tests. Jesus called the twelve and the seventy by word of mouth. Upon His departure He said to the ministry of His day, "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever. . . . It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you. . . . He shall testify of Me. . . . He will guide you into all truth." Since the departure of Jesus, His work on earth has been inspired and directed by the Holy Spirit. As in the old time holy men of God spake the word of prophecy as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, so under the new dispensation of grace, men of God are moved to preach the Gospel by the same Spirit.

A third test is fruitfulness. There are no sterile plants in a divinely-called ministry. An aged clergyman of New England is said to have confessed that he had preached fifty years without the knowledge that a single soul had been converted through his efforts. Was the man never called of God, or did he tempt the Almighty with fifty years of faithless service? The Lord has affirmed concerning His word: "It shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it." Jesus exclaims to His disciples "I have chosen you and ordained you, that

of the church through the apostolic age, we observe that God set men to special work in the church, making some apostles, others prophets, and others teachers; and that it was the Holy Ghost who made this division of labor and called the men to their respective places in the ranks. When prophets arose in the church in Jerusalem, one stood up and signified by the Spirit what was to take place in the future. When prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch ministered to the Lord and observed a fast, the Spirit said, "Separate Me Barnabas and Saul for the work wherunto I have called them." Throughout that period in the history of the church which is covered by the inspired record, the Holy Spirit indicates who are to be the messengers of revealed truth. There is no intimation that the order thus established is ever to be changed. But while the Spirit makes His call to be clear and imperative to every submissive subject, He has revealed no stereotyped method of issuing His mandates. How the Spirit did call one person to the ministry many a man can relate, but how He will call the next minister no mortal can predict.

The next thing to be considered is the character of the work to which the minister is called. Two points are made specially prominent in the Scriptures. He is called to teach. This injunction is twice given in the original commission of the Lord Jesus: "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them all things whatsoever I have commanded you." The apostles faithfully observed their instructions, for the record states that daily in the temple and in every house they "ceased not to teach." Paul declared that he was appointed "a teacher of the Gentiles." He instructed Timothy that the servant of the Lord must be "apt to teach," and urged the young minister to "command and teach," and again, to "teach and exhort."

The second and chief element of the work of the ministry is preaching. The New Testament contains so much on this point that full quotation would be wearisome and useless. The Spirit calls men to preach the kingdom of God, to preach the Word, to preach Jesus Christ, and when He would include the entire burden of the message in a single word, to preach the Gospel. The disciple, like his Master, may illuminate and enforce the truths of the Gospel by illustrations drawn from any field of knowledge, but if it is any part of the work embraced in the preacher's call to make his hearers historians, scientists, or political economists, either the Holy Spirit must have neglected to mention the fact to the inspired writers, or they must have forgotten to record it. According to the Scriptural idea, the minister of the Gospel is called to preach the Gospel only, and to preach it in the way best adapted to induce the unsaved to become children of God, and to feed the flock of Christ unto growth in grace, strength, and maturity in Christian character.

It is a good plan to hold both Conferences here at this business centre in successive weeks. It helps to attract public attention, though the daily papers here are, as elsewhere, more interested in reporting low shows, and baseball games, and cheap theatres, than they are in reporting religious meetings, especially if the meetings are those of the Methodist Church.

Holding two Conferences, as these have been held, has secured the attendance of an unusual number of General Conference officers. We have not had too frequent visits from them heretofore, and especially is this the case when the places selected for the seat of the Conference have been far distant from railroad communications. Here we have been blessed with the presence of the genial, active, and earnest Dr. T. C. Carter, editor of the *Methodist Advocate* at Chattanooga, which for several years has made live in spite of all difficulties and oppositions. He leads his delegation to the next General Conference. He is always cordially welcomed to all the Southern Conferences, whatever the color. He preaches with clearness and vigor. Dr. Vincent is here. He has addressed the Conference, preached the afternoon sermon on Sunday to a greatly delighted audience, and has also given "That Boy's Sister" in our white church, and "That Boy" in our colored church, as usual capturing his crowd, and filling their heads and hearts with good things. Dr. Cranston, senior Book Agent of the Western Book Concern, has also been with us. The Doctor feels well. His Concern is out of debt and able to lend the New York Concern \$100,000 to purchase their new property. Out of debt to pay the last cent if the bond-holding creditors would only consent to take their pay. Dr. Cranston preaches with power and old-time plainness of speech. The Sunday night service at the first M. E. Church was his, and he made it memorable for the dispensation of red-hot-gospel truth. In his address to the Conference he is eminently plain and practical in all his business statements, and yet he manages somehow to work a good deal of gospel and religious exhortation in with his facts, figures and balance sheets, and debt-collecting speeches.

Dr. W. A. Spencer, the assistant corresponding secretary of the Church Extension Society, has been present at both Conferences. He extends the church both ways, first by helping to build new churches through the instrumentality of the Society he represents, and secondly by getting people converted to fill the churches. He was present at the opening of the Central Alabama Conference and led the singing. On hymns did not do; and a half dozen, with the choruses repeated fifty times, failed to satisfy. How he did sing, "Swing low, sweet chariot," and, "When the general roll is called, I'll be there," and how the colored brothers, born with the gift of song, and possessed of voices that are wonderful for power and sometimes sweetness, did sing! It seemed one while as if angels were hovering round, glad to join in the holy song. At night Dr. Spencer spoke on Church Extension, and wound up with an altar service that will never be forgotten. He had all his own way, and the glory of the Lord filled the place.

But how about the personnel of the Conference? Well, this and more. They are a fine, noble-looking body of men. They have the appearance of gentlemen. They are neatly dressed; clean linen is universal; and they are not in the habit of carrying their hands in their trousers' pockets. The business of the Conference is carried forward with just as much regard to good order and correctness, and with despatch, as in any of the best-regulated Conferences of the North. The secretaries are models of promptness and exactness; they know their business, and attend to it thoroughly.

These men are obliged to live on very small salaries, some of them on less than \$100 for the whole year; and yet they do not murmur, and no man at the close of the Conference was seen with downcast eyes complaining of his hard appointment. They have the souls of heroes, and they are grand illustrations of the self-sacrifice and self-denial that have made the old-time preachers of Methodism the mark of the world's admiration. The friends of the colored man in the North who have put their money into the enterprises of the church

should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you." These declarations are a part of the fundamental law of the Christian Church. They are articles in the bills of rights and privileges granted of Heaven to its accredited ministers. It is the constitutional right of the person called of God to proclaim His word to stand before the throne of grace, and, in Christ's name, claim fruits as the authentication of his commission.

What shall be able to daunt that preacher who has at his back the recognition of his authority by the church, by his side the King of kings, and in his hand the pledge that souls shall be given him as the seals of his ministry? Surely, the gates of hell shall not prevail against that man.

Oh, awake in your chambers, ye bells everywhere!
Overturn, oh, ye goblets, and empty in air!
All the music that swells to your resonant brims,
Till ye throb like our hearts, and it blends with our hymns.

—Benj. F. Taylor.

A DUPLICATE CONFERENCE.

BY BISHOP W. F. MALLALIEU.

THE two Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church cover the same territory, one must be the duplicate of the other, since a two-fold work covers the same space. The Alabama Conference covers the entire State of Alabama. The Central Alabama Conference also covers the entire State of Alabama. One, the first, is white; the second is colored—not black, not negro, for many of these men are more white than black, more Caucasian than negro. Both Conferences met this year in Birmingham, the wonderful iron town of the South. Twenty-five years ago, possibly thirtynine, the master of the house had been relieved until it had entirely disappeared, and with it his heart disease had also entirely left him, and he considered himself cured. He has bought land and erected a house, wisely regarding this as the appropriate locality for him to spend his declining years.

Sketch little bits; study breadth of effect; sketch boldly and with decision—possible without erasure. These are golden rules to the student in water-color sketching from nature. . . . In sketching from nature in water-colors, charcoal will be found very useful for first, slight, rapid indication of masses. The most useful colors are: Yellow ochre, gamboge, raw Sienna, burnt Sienna, light red, vermilion, madder lake, French blue or cobalt, indigo, olive green, Hooker's green, sepia, Vandyke brown, Payne's gray. —Art Amateur.

It is a good plan to hold both Conferences here at this business centre in successive weeks. It helps to attract public attention, though the daily papers here are, as elsewhere, more interested in reporting low shows, and baseball games, and cheap theatres, than they are in reporting religious meetings, especially if the meetings are those of the Methodist Church.

It is not saying too much to affirm that the eyes of the northern and eastern portions of our country are fixed upon Southern California with an interest never before felt. The severity of our northern winters, the wide prevalence and fatality among us of the various forms of catarrhal and pulmonary diseases, have prepared the way for any practicable mode of escape from the infelicities of climate from which so many suffer so much. The recent popular excursions to the Pacific coast, which have become so thoroughly systematized, have supplied the desideratum, and have put within the reach of nearly all an easy and economical escape from the frigid and variable austerities which have become the dread of the diseased and the aged. They have made us acquainted with the almost Paradise features of the Pacific coast—it's genial and healthful climate, its equable temperature, its entire exemption from severe frost and storms, its almost perpetual summer, its rich and productive soil, its great variety and excellence of fruits and vegetables, the prodigious wealth of tropic and temperate zones. Add to these considerations the interest which always attaches to a mountainous region, the endless variety and beauty, the awful majesty and grandeur, the startling surprises which meet the student of nature at every turn, and we have sufficient reason for the widespread desire to visit, or emigrate to, this land of sunshiny and beauty.

No one can in these days travel from Boston to any Californian centre without being confronted by constantly cumulative evidence that a remarkable flood of emigration is pouring over the southern portion of this State. Railroads are not supplied with running stock sufficient to convey the passengers. Railroad centres are glutted, and, daily, impatient and disappointed crowds are left by overburdened trains to await their turn. Attempts have been made to divert this tide, and to turn it toward the north or toward the south; but thus far these attempts have not succeeded to any great extent. Steadily it flows on and into, and becomes a part of, the great whole which is rapidly developing the seemingly inexhaustible resources of what it is confidently predicted will be long constitute the State of Southern California, with Los Angeles as its capital.

In this influx of northern and eastern population to Southern California an abnormal condition of things will soon cease? I shall not enter largely into the discussion of this question. Indeed, it would be presumptuous for a few weeks' resident in the State to assume the tone and air of an authority, and dogmatize upon such similar questions, where long and careful observation alone can qualify one to speak advisedly and wisely. Yet a Yankee may be allowed the privilege of guessing.

First, that so long as the climatic conditions afford relief to the diseased which they do, the number of converts in China has more than doubled within ten years, and now exceeds 30,000; at least a proof that Christian work is grandly successful here, and is a powerful stimulus to more abundant labors.

—The progress of Romanism in the Protestant Church of China is painfully indicated by the fact that praying and offering masses for the dead is greatly on the increase. The "Office of the Dead" was "sung" on a recent occasion in the principal churches in England, Scotland, and Wales; and on the following morning masses for the dead were offered up in no fewer than one hundred and seven church services.

—It is estimated that the gross value of the gifts which are being made to the Pope on the occasion of his sacerdotal jubilee will not fall short of half-a-million sterling. In addition to the exhibits already described, the Catholic world continues to contribute large sums. The "Office of the Dead" was "sung" on a recent occasion in the principal churches in England, Scotland, and Wales; and on the following morning masses for the dead were offered up in no fewer than one hundred and seven church services.

in the South, may rest assured that the money has not been wasted. The broadcast upon the waters is being gathered. These Conferences, whether white or black, are an immeasurable blessing to the South. The Methodist Episcopal Church has done, and is doing, a grand and glorious work all over this section. It is a work of patriotism, philanthropy and religion. All she needs to do is to pour in the men and money and scatter wide the precious seed, and God will give the increase.

ART NOTES.

—The Corcoran Art Gallery at Washington is to receive an addition in the shape of a picture, by Becker, of Pope Julius II, gazing upon the Apollo Belvedere with Vittoria Colonna, Raphael, Michael Angelo, and other personages of the period grouped about him. The picture is seven feet long and contains twelve figures. —*Magazine of Art.*

Munkaczy's "Last Day of a Condemned Man" is on exhibition at the Helene Gallery, New York. It is one of the most interesting of his works, and the technique shows him at his best and simplest, partly because the bituminous element has not yet been over-prominent by

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Zion's Herald.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4, 1888.

TO OUR READERS.

ZION'S HERALD proffers to each and all a hearty New Year's greeting. Its aim, in the future as in the past, will be to brighten and make glad the homes which it weekly visits, by advocating whatsoever things are pure and lovely and honest and of good report, by inspiring to every worthy purpose, and by pointing out the true sources of comfort to every mourning heart. It will continue, as in the past, to be an exponent of "the faith once for all delivered to the saints," and of that interpretation of it, in particular, which is devoutly held by "the people called Methodists." By retaining many of the old features, and adding some that are new, it will seek to adapt itself more closely to the demands of its patrons, and thus win for itself a warmer welcome, if possible, from young and from old.

* *

The editor *pro tem.* assumes the direction of the paper with great diffidence. No one can appreciate as keenly as does he the power and the pathos, as well as the fertility, of the pen that has been laid down after more than half a generation of invaluable service. No one can be more sensible than he of the greatness of the loss which our Methodist journalism sustains when a writer of Dr. Peirce's experience and versatility feels compelled to withdraw from the severe exacting of editorial toil. He carries with him, in his retirement from office, the benedictions and regrets of thousands who never looked upon his genial face, but who have been stimulated and uplifted by his fervent and instructive words. His chair may be occupied, but it will be long before any successor of his succeeds in filling it.

* *

Some changes will be noticed in the typographical aspect and arrangement of the paper, which we hope will commend themselves to our readers. We are not yet prepared to announce all the good things which are planned, to enrich the columns of ZION'S HERALD. We may hint, however, that arrangements have been made to secure contributions from the ablest writers in the denomination; while local interests will not be sacrificed, the scope of the paper will be greatly broadened; that new departments—such as Health, Home Decoration, Art and Music—will be added, and that space will be secured for this purpose by excluding long articles, and publishing only what is brief and choice. At the request of many, an Inquiry Column will be set apart as soon as convenient. The new literary movement among our young people will also be encouraged, and a column be devoted, fortnightly, to reports of its progress.

* *

In the interim certain abuses will be corrected—abuses which no one regretted more than did the late editor, and which he would have himself corrected had he continued in office.

1. Report of Copy.—An attempt will be made to read promptly all copy sent to the office, to decide at once upon the question of its availability, and to notify the sender. Declined articles, unless stamps are enclosed, will be turned over to the publisher, to await the order of the writer. We propose to revive the old department of "Gleanings from Our Correspondents," and to print paragraphs, with editorial introduction, from articles which we have not space to print entire.

2. Newspaper cuttings sent to us to be reduced, or otherwise put into shape, for our columns, will be dropped into the waste-basket. Make your own items, brethren, or else send your information to your Conference correspondent, who will adapt it to our requirements.

3. Lengthy notices of pamphlets, manuals, little books, etc., on the editorial page will hereafter be discontinued. Their reception will be acknowledged, and any comment that may seem fitting be made in the columns of the Book Table.

4. Obituaries.—These will hereafter be strictly limited to 300 words, or, in the case of a preacher, to 400 words. If they exceed this limit, leader; the Knights of Labor feel

they will be returned to the writer for revision. We are over a month behind in this department, and the fault is not ours. Count your words, brethren, before you mail your obituary notice, if you expect a prompt publication.

Prize Offers.

1. For the best short article, not to exceed 800 words, on any practical subject of present interest, the sum of \$20 will be paid, and \$10 for the second-best.

2. For the best story, adapted to our columns, not to exceed 2,500 words in length, \$30 will be paid, and \$15 for the second-best.

The time limit in both cases will be Feb. 8. Committees will be selected to decide on the merits of the articles submitted, and to award the prizes.

THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

The new year finds our country in the midst of an unfinished development along several most important lines of progress. During the past twelve months marked changes have occurred in the status of the problems which are now most forcibly pressing for solution. It is the effort of the nation to solve these problems on the basis of justice to all the interests of the many millions of people whose fate is associated with the decision of these questions. The nation has at all times to remember its duty to act as a moral person and to hold itself to a strict course of righteousness in all its national transactions. It is bound at all times to regard the well-being of the individual citizens, but it is also to have a higher regard for the development of the nation as a whole.

By the course of events, and especially by the force of the President's Message to Congress, the tariff reform issue, which has been more or less prominent before the country for the past few years as a growing problem, is forced to the front. The issue involves both moral and economic considerations, and it is so broad that it seems impossible for any one mind to comprehend it in all its phases. It has much to do with our national prosperity. Both parties to the great contest maintain that emphatically. The happiness and lives of many people depend upon the way in which the issue shall be shaped, but in all the struggle there is concerned the moral force of the nation, and it is to be devoutly hoped that that force will carry our laws forward to one higher step in expressing the truths of common honesty and justice upon which all our progress is based.

Another pressing issue of public development is the enforcement of the laws for the reform of the civil service. If there is any law of our land which rests upon a basis of justice and regard for the good of the whole, rather than the good of the few or the advancement of one political party, it is the civil service reform law. That law is not yet beyond the stage of danger, and it is for all public-spirited citizens who place the good of the country above any party, to see that their influence is used to promote this righteous cause.

The surviving "twin relic" of barbarism still threatens us, and efforts will be made during the present session of Congress to procure the admission of Utah as a State. But remonstrances to Congress have already been signed by thousands of people, protesting against the admission of the territory as long as polygamy is tolerated within its borders. The issue is undecided. It is pressing, and has in it much danger to the country. The year now just begun may see important changes in the relation of the government to this disgrace upon our national fame.

More than ever in recent years, the nation is beginning to feel the danger that lies in the growing number of illiterates who are to be found in large proportions in some parts of our country, particularly in some of the Southern States. Something must be done to protect the nation from this danger, and to remove this handicap upon its progress. A look backward does not reveal as much done as was needed, and the problem still stands in front of our legislators.

Progress has been made in the year just closed in determining the relations of capital and labor to each other. It has been demonstrated that the control of all the labor of the country which was proposed by the Knights of Labor was impossible, and the young organization of the federated trades is an attempt to proceed upon another system. But while the workmen are trying to advance their own interests by a new form of combination, the development of "trusts" on the part of the capitalists has revealed to the country a new form of danger. The year just closed has shown a way from one danger, but it has brought in another equally harmful to the public good.

In our foreign relations the year just past has seen but little change. We enter the new year with the fishery question yet to be solved, and we have also to notice the growth of a feeling for closer and freer commercial relations with our national neighbors each side of us, especially on the north. So, as a whole, the nation has for the coming year a wide field for the exercise of its function for the promotion of justice and righteousness in the world.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The return from Congo of one of the families of Bishop Taylor's mission, bringing unfavorable tidings of the enterprise as a whole, and making complaints of personal ill treatment, has caused uneasiness and distrust in many quarters. The facts in the case appear to be these: In May last, J. C. Waller, of Burlington, Vt., with his wife and two little children, was sent to Africa with a party of missionaries. Their expenses were paid out of the building and transit fund of the enterprise. They were allowed provisions for one year and \$25 in cash for each member of the family. Mr. Waller was engaged as cook for the new steamer, "Annie Taylor." He returned last week and made the remarkable statement

that he only can guide in toil and bestowed its richest rewards.

The Church of Christ, in all, its members, is inquiring for the truth of duty, correlating it with privilege, and seeking the end of being through faith and love. Sects forget to dispute, denominations discover essential oneness in Christ, and all inquire, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" in the spirit of the man who turned the world, that had been wrong side down, right side up. Inquire—apply; ask—do. These are watchwords of the present. What is the Saviour's will concerning you, personally, in the family, the church, the world? What? You know? Then do it gladly, heartily. The truth shall make you free—make the world free, so soon as it applies the truth.

that the steamer is a wreck on the banks of the Congo, that the climate is abominable, the land incapable of cultivation by people from the temperate zone, that mission work is impracticable owing to the necessary struggle of the missionaries for bare existence, and that the whole scheme is badly mismanaged. It seems clear either that Mr. Waller mistook his call when he went abroad, or else that he has lost heart because of the undeniable hardships involved in the initiatory work of the mission. Those who are in a position of knowing the facts in the case declare that the steamer is not a wreck; that, pending the rainy season, she cannot be used, but that she will be launched on Stanley Pool in the spring. As to the climate, fertility of soil, practicability of genuine missionary work, and contentment of the missionaries, dozens of statements from people on the spot could be quoted denying the truth of every assertion made by Mr. Waller. As to the charge of mismanagement, Bishop Taylor will take care of that either before or at his arrival home in the spring. Meantime Mr. Waller's place will doubtless be filled, and new recruits will shortly be sent forward to join the eighty earnest workers in this difficult but hopeful field.

The following incident, clipped from one of our exchanges, deserves to be pondered:

"A minister in one of Moody's meetings said his text in the 'Christian's Staying Power' was the sharp question that came from Mr. Moody in an instant. 'Well, I don't know,' said the minister, 'what to say.' 'How I don't know,' persisted Mr. Moody. 'Well, we don't want that kind of mountain-top experience. When a man gets so high that he can't reach down and save poor sinners, there is something wrong.'

Dr. Theodore Cuyler, writing in the *Independent* on "A Christian's Staying Power," says his text in the "Christian's Staying Power" was the sharp question that came from Mr. Moody in an instant. "Well, I don't know," said the minister. "How I don't know," persisted Mr. Moody. "Well, we don't want that kind of mountain-top experience. When a man gets so high that he can't reach down and save poor sinners, there is something wrong."

City Point. — The pastor, Rev. J. Candlin, received three into full membership from probation and five by letter, Jan. 1. The Christmas tree bore much acceptable fruit for the children and many adults; the pastor and his wife being the recipients of a purse containing \$100 in gold.

Stoneham. — Rev. S. Jackson received eight from probation and five by letter, Jan. 1. The Christmas tree bore much acceptable fruit for the children and many adults; the pastor and his wife being the recipients of a purse containing \$100 in gold.

Chelsea. — Rev. J. W. Dearborn is pastor. The religious interest is excellent in the regular meetings. Last Sunday twenty-four were baptized and received into full membership, and three by letter.

North Boston District.

Clinton. — The Clinton M. E. Church (Rev. John Short, pastor) was formally reopened for service, Wednesday evening, Dec. 28. The services consisted of singing by the choir, Scripture reading and prayer by Rev. C. M. Bowers, D. D., ex-pastor of the Baptist church in C., and dedicatory sermon by Dr. Chadbourne, presiding elder, from the text, "Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Phil. 3: 8). The pastor made a statement regarding the building finance. The repairs have cost a little over \$3,600, about \$1,600 of which has already been paid. Over \$1,100 was immediately pledged, leaving a debt of only \$850 unprovided for. The indecent Codman will case, which has dragged its nauseous pollution through the columns of some of our daily papers at intervals for months past, is settled at last, and righteously settled. The infamous arrangement by which an abandoned and mercenary woman inherited equally with the wife who through long years has endured the torture of her husband's guilty infatuation and the insults of his mistress, has been broken. The wife wins. The money becomes legally, as it was all along rightly, hers. But the heritage of sorrow and disgust—this, alas! must go with her to life's end. It required rare courage on her part to prosecute the case, to endure unflinchingly the betrayal of family secrets and family shame, but her cause was just, and she is vindicated, at last.

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Bethel. — Dec. 26, a tree for the needy children school was heavily loaded. Watch-night services were filled during Six started for the king, and, seventy testified to Christ as a present Saviour just in from the were present, and none envoys more than they.

Rev. S. Jackson received probation and five by letter, Christmas tree bore much fruit for the children and the pastor, and his wife recipients of a purse contained.

— Rev. J. W. Dearborn is religious interest is ex- regular meetings. Last twenty-four were baptized and full membership, and.

A two-weeks' meeting, Telford, the English evan- gized in large congregations. Thirteen persons aversion. Eight were re- probation, and four baptized into full membership. Meetings are continued.

Walnut St. — Dr. Dorchester, received six into full mem- ber union meetings are to be nominations uniting, begin- nut St. Church, this week.

The pastor and brethren in the near approach of the removal of their debt, being needed to accomplish object. A little help just greatly appreciated.

Common. — An excellent service was attended by hundred persons. The love followed by an excellent ser- Dr. Fisher of Kansas, and on service of great inter-

— Mr. Telford, the English began special services last which were of great interest. He is expected to remain now for three weeks.

Historical.

— Improvements have re- made on the church property of \$200. The parsonage beautified with two good quill — canary with garnet and eleven horse-sheeds have and the furnaces remodeled.

Rev. J. W. Fulton, was attended by the people at an adjustable beaver fur the pastor's wife with a many and several useful arti- church bills are paid up to prospective bills provided for time. The church is financial and spiritual con-

— The winter term of the Academy has opened with prosperity. Already 250 registered, and more are. The religious interest of some measure continues, of prayer for seminaries is of great interest and G.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE.

W. Hall, at Chilmark, is and, not without seeing results of his labors. Seven recently been received into

sets of the church at Cutty- perhaps be properly said to what near relation to the we.

An evident deepening of re- in the church at Vine- Rev. George A. Grant, nivers have recently come to it is hoped that the number increased.

own, under the pastorate of King, there has been a de- scription in the Sunday congregations from the young peo- a very encouraging fea- work in any church, for we hope to do them good un- get them under the influ- preached Gospel. We ex- hear that the faithful pass- them to Christ.

Stoddard has been hold- ings in Little Compton. have been good, and the increasing. The pastor every evening, and immediate fruits of his labor. People's Society is about to, with prospects of a good to begin with. The pastor an important department of in this movement.

Dalrymple, of Oster- ville, has been transferred to Conference and stationed Water. Bro. Dalrymple is thoughtful man, and pos- elements of success. We re- of his departure. That the highest success in his great West, the prayer in whom he leaves behind. Third man transferred from Bedford District this year. Beloved bishops will deal us the rest of the year and brethren to remain in their lands, otherwise some of our candidates for the next General may fall of an election, a probable loss of that honora- X. Y. Z.

Directed by Rev. Thos. the evangelist, at Chestnut Providence, which has been for the last eight weeks, with much interest. Thus three hundred have been at On Sunday, Dec. 18, the announced the names of over who had joined the church All of these probation-

ers who were present came forward to the chancel rail and were formally welcomed to the church. The candidates then bowed at the altar, and joined with the congregation in singing the covenant hymn. Among these candidates were twenty-nine heads of families, some of whom were grandparents. In one case, grandparents and a grandchild stood side by side. Others will yet join this church. The members of the church have been greatly revived.

Presiding Elder Morgan has been preaching at protracted meetings held at Proctorsville. Results are to be chronicled later.

The Bellows Falls Times made special mention of the Christmas sermon of Bro. Todd, also of the concert by the Sabbath-school. RETLAW.

St. Johnsbury District.

Rev. M. H. Ryan was obliged to leave the work of the gospel on Montpelier District last week, in obedience to the call of the law from this district. Being a witness in a case on trial in the Caledonia County court, he spent the week in St. Johnsbury. He prefers witnessing for his Master in Granville and Hancock, and reports seasons of refreshing on his charge.

Church in Lunenburgh is blessed with a company of active and devoted young men, who cheerfully bear the burdens of the Lord's work, and are making themselves exceedingly helpful to the pastor, Rev. C. P. Taplin. They are now furnishing a course of six lectures, in which appear the names of Dr. M. V. B. Knox, Col. Z. M. Mansur, and Hon. G. N. Dale. Open fields of usefulness for young men are not all in the great West. There are plenty of opportunities for the consecrated push and grit of young disciples on other Vermont charges.

Christian women always stand abreast of their opportunity. This is notably the case at St. Johnsbury Centre.

The Ladies' Mite Society of that church is a diligent organization. Its workers have recently presented the church with an excellent Mason & Hamlin organ, and have furnished the parsonage with a beautiful chamber set, carpet for parlor, bedroom, and stairs, stove and sofa for the sitting-room, extension table for the dining-room, and other necessary articles. When it is remembered that the total membership of the church is only forty persons, it will be understood that this means something.

No wonder the pastor, Rev. T. Trevillian, writes: "A noble band of ladies cannot be found within the bounds of Vermont Conference." A deep religious interest is manifest on the charge.

The pastor has held a protracted meeting for three weeks, in which he has been assisted by Brothers S. C. Vail, Farrow, Frost, F. H. Roberts, and Grover. The people of the Lord have been greatly helped by these services. Brother Trevillian writes: "A large number have been baptized with the Holy Ghost and with power . . . We are hoping that a few souls have been brought out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son . . . Light is breaking upon this old mother church of Methodism in St. Johnsbury."

MAINE CONFERENCE.

The ladies connected with the Methodist Church at South Paris had a sale of useful and fancy articles, together with a circle supper, the 22d inst., in G. A. R. hall, from which they realized \$125. This amount goes toward paying for the new carpets for the audience room of the church. An album quilt, which was sold at the fair, was presented to Mrs. Holmes, the pastor's wife.

The brethren expect to occupy the vestry of the rejuvenated church, Jan. 1, and the audience-room a little later.

By the will of the late Mrs. Dr. E. Clark, of Woodford, \$500 is bequeathed to the Preachers' Aid Society of the Maine Conference, \$500 to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and \$200 to the Home for Aged Women in Portland. Conditionally the will gives \$1,000 to the Woodford's Methodist Church, the interest of which is to support preaching in the Clark Memorial Church at Woodford's. This church is a monument of the generous interest Dr. Clark and his wife have always had in Methodism. By the will, the portraits of Dr. and Mrs. Clark are to be given to Kent's Hill Seminary after the death of Mrs. Dr. Ridgway, of Evans-

F. A. BRAGDON, Sec.

EAST MAINE CONFERENCE.

Rockland District.

North Vassalboro. — Dec. 18, three persons were baptized, and four received to full membership. The storm prevented the presence of others living some distance from the church, who would have united with the church if they could have been present.

Waldoboro. — Three persons were baptized and received into full connection the first Sabbath of December. Bro. Tyler is closing a very pleasant pastorate with this church. The great improvement made in the church property, the numbers converted and received into the church, will remain the monument of faithful work securing the blessing of the "Head of the Church" when the pastor shall have been assigned to another field of labor.

Rockland. — An increasing religious interest is enjoyed. Some have recently said, "Pray for me, for I would be a follower of the Lamb."

Thirty-four have been converted and joined the class at Jefferson Valley.

Rev. A. T. Hillman, pastor of the First Free Baptist Church of Manchester, has just completed the raising of the debt of \$10,000 upon the church property, has resigned. It is understood he joins the Congregational denomination, and takes the position of State missionary.

Clarendon District.

The Methodists of Clarendon observed Christmas in a pleasant manner. Christ- evan they had an entertainment and tree in their vestry. Rev. G. M. Curl's Bible class presented him with a silk bag filled with English walnuts, which had been split in halves, the meats removed, and gold and silver coins substituted, the halves then being neatly glued together. These verses accompanied the gift: "Seek ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you."

The interior of the church at Peter- boro has been kalsomined. At the Christmas exercises Rev. G. H. Hardy, the pastor, was presented with a barrel of flour and a sum of money.

Westport. — The little flock are again encouraged with the extraordinary presence of the Holy Spirit, so persuading sinners that some have said, "Pray for me, for I would see Jesus."

The trustees of the Rockland District camp-ground have concluded to build upon the ground a chapel with capacity to seat one thousand persons, before the meeting in 1888. This building, with improvements to be made by sev-

eral of the societies upon their church cottages or chapels, added to the present advantages of the ground, will make it one of the most favorably situated and furnished grounds where the Methodist people gather to spend four days in the worship of their Divine Master.

C. A. P.

Bucksport District.

The Seminary at Bucksport is more usually prosperous for a winter term. The number of students is 140 or over. A good religious interest prevails.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE.

Dover District.

Church publications are just now in order. First comes a forty-eight-page pamphlet entitled, "Where to Buy and How to Cook." It contains a few editorial notes, and the remainder of the space is taken up with advertisements and recipes. Our cook has not tried any of the latter, but we presume they are all good. From the number of "ads," it must have netted a goodly sum for the church at Kingston, under whose auspices it was published. Bro. Mudge is doing faithful work.

In the evening there was a full house. After spirited singing led by Bro. McClellan, a very neat and readable monthly, that had appeared for the first time. It is edited by the pastor, Rev. J. M. Williams, and is full of good things. The present number is devoted largely to the interest of St. Paul's church, though in future numbers it will take in the Methodism of the city.

Last and least comes *Our Anniversary*, issued by the pastor at Portsmouth, containing the announcements and program of the sixtieth anniversary. It also contains the list of the church officers, and the statistics of the church, assembly and Sunday-school, and a few local advertisements.

The work of the Lord is prosperous on the Auburn and Chester charge. Congregations are the largest for years, and the Sunday-school is increasing. Bro. Allen, the pastor, is holding meetings in the out-districts with encouraging results. During one week about twenty persons have been forward for prayers. Some remarkable conversions have occurred, and a deep spirit of conviction is abroad on the whole charge.

In the morning at 9:30 prayer was offered by Bro. Pendexter. The topic, "Home Missions of the Maine Conference," was resumed. Bro. Pendexter presented a resolution in reference to the appropriation of funds to the weak charges in our rural districts, and, after discussion, the resolution was adopted. The review by Bro. Munger of Mr. Simpson's "Gospel of the Kingdom," was taken up. Rev. Israel Luce spoke for thirty-five minutes in favor of Mr. Simpson's book, though he could not endorse it as a whole; and attempted to show wherein Bro. Munger had misrepresented Mr. Simpson's teaching. Rev. W. S. Jones criticised the book, and quoted from it to sustain his criticisms. Bro. Munger replied to criticalism upon his review, and thus the discussion was closed.

Chaplain McCabe was requested to sing, and responded by singing, "We're building two a-day," and "What would you give for me, pap?" He also made some remarks previous to leaving for the train.

This was a memorable meeting. Bro. McCabe and Mudge rendered valuable service, for which they have the thanks of Maine Methodists. The next meeting of the Association will be held in June at South Berwick.

F. A. BRAGDON, Sec.

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MONEY LETTERS FROM DEC. 24 TO 31.
T. Boyd, L. S. Bolton, C. H. Buck, E. C. Bass, F. C. Baker, J. W. Bashford, C. H. Brown, J. H. Boutin, C. H. Chase, M. Cook, E. C. Charlton, E. L. Clark, G. Crawford, A. W. Cummings, J. Clark, J. A. Corey, J. F. Dunlap, J. Denison, F. Doe, C. E. Eaton, M. Esten, C. H. Ewer, J. Higgins, C. A. Hayward, A. Hobbs, G. H. Hoyt, W. S. Jenne, W. Johnson, G. W. King, W. T. Kimball, J. Longfellow, D. P. Leavitt, J. L. Morse, H. W. Millson, M. L. Mitchell, J. Mc- Gowan, K. Mowry, D. Nash, S. Oldham, J. Pease, S. L. Oldham, J. G. Plogre, W. J. Pomfret, A. C. Peck, C. F. Parsons, Wm. Price, J. H. Penny, J. Q. Packer, J. P. Hoe, E. A. Rice, D. C. Raymond, G. W. Roland, J. H. Stebbins, C. A. Southard, M. B. Stanford, H. Smith, M. S. Tracy, W. B. Silver, F. P. Sawyer, A. Spier, O. Stand, O. Southard, K. W. Spinney, H. Sawyer, J. O. Sherburne, T. T. Traft, T. A. Thayer, G. T. Tilton, L. J. Topliff, J. Tandy, E. W. Wiggin, H. Whitney, F. L. Whitney, A. Witham.

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The Family.

JANUARY.

A new year smiling comes. It seems that we But yesterday the last one turned to greet. Swiftly the months passed by, and silently We marked it fade, and felt that something sweet Was drifting from us; and we softly sighed As the year, lately new, grew pale and died.

O January! first of this new year, What scenes are hidden in thy coming hours? We greet thee with a mingled joy and fear, Keeping the past for the past, and flowers And as we blindly meet each new-born day, We ask for guidance o'er the untired way.

Welcome, New Year! Faith bids each heart be strong; For God will order all that comes with thee. To Him we leave it, glad to march along. Feeling that what is best alone will be. And as we onward pass, kind wishes fail, That this may prove a happy year for all.

— SOPHIE L. SCHENKE, in *Brooklyn Magazine*.

THE NEW YEAR'S LEGACY.

From the old year to the new
Goes a message, like a message,
Like a gift, like a gift,
New Year, I, the old year, presage
Many gifts, I cannot name them —
Rapturous joys, I would not tame them;
Joys to you,

From the old year to the new!

I, the old year, to the new,
Send you greeting, send you greeting;
Dying, I bequeath to you
Spring's sweet tide, with blossoms fleeting;
Spring, with heart once laden —
Heart of lover, heart of maiden —

Sent to you,

From the old year to the new.

I, the old year, to the new,
Send you Summer, passionate Summer;
Dying, I bequeath to you
Ripening noons, and throbbing murmur
Of fair nature's lavish blisses,
Quickened by the hot sun's kisses —

Sent to you,

From the old year to the new.

I, the old year, to the new,
Send you Autumn, tempestuous Autumn;
Dying, I bequeath to you
Golden forests, and favors brought from
The far Orient and the Indies;
And from all the world I send these

Gifts to you —

From the old year to the new.

I, the old year, to the new,
Send you Winter, hoary Winter;
Dying, I bequeath to you
Snow, with all its charms. Time has sent her —
Winter here, whose glittering garment
Robes the earth, like some pure star, meant
To light you

From the old life to the new.

From the old year to the new
Speads a carol, wings a carol,
Heralding a Christ to you!
Song of Love, whose notes shall bear all —
All that love can give, all treasure;
Christmas, with its heaven of pleasure,
Song to you,

By the old year to the new!

— S. H. THAYER, in *Christian Union*.

PEACE.

BY C. W. WILLIS.

Winds and wild waves in hailing huge commotion Scud, dark with tempest, o'er the Atlantic's breast, While underneath, few fathoms deep in ocean, Lie peace and rest.

Storms in mid-air, the rack before them sweeping Hurry and hiss, like fates possessed; While over all white clouds are sleeping In peace and rest.

Heart, O wild heart! why in the storm-world raging, Pil'st thou thus midway, passion's slave and jest, When all so near above, below, unchanging, Are heaven and rest?

THOUGHTS FOR THE THOUGHTFUL.

"It is the Lord!" Sad soul, whate'er the burden That presseth sorely now, What in the thunder-cloud which hangs its shadow

Athwart thy storm-clad bough,
Fear not! No sorow but to gladness tendeth
If man's eyes could see the reward cast;

The shadow of some quiet glory lendeth
And breaketh into blessing at the last.

Soon shall thy heart in rapture be outpoured,

And thou shalt testify, "It is the Lord."

— L. A. BENNETT.

We must be dull inspectors of our own hearts, if we have never discerned there, lurking beneath the level at which sin breaks out into overt crime, some single offence — an offence of feeling, an offence of habit in thought, which for a time has spread its infection over the whole character of our devotions. We have been self-convicted of falsehood in prayer; for, though praying in the full dress of sound words, we did not desire that our supplications should be heard at the expense of that one idol. Perhaps that single sin has woven itself like a web over large spaces of our life. It may have run like a shuttle to and fro in the texture of some plain of life, on which our consciousness has glared directly; and through the years, because of the web of the world has blindfolded conscience by the irresistibility of such sin. Yet it has been all the while tightening its folds around us, repressing our liberty in prayer, stopping the life-blood and stiffening the fibre of our moral being; till we are like kneeling corpses in our worship. — AUSTIN PHELPS, D. D., in "The Still Hour."

*

But I will say of Shakespeare's works generally, that we have full impress of him there; and as full as we have of many men. His plays are so many windows, through which we see a glimpse of the world that was in him. All his works seem, comparatively speaking, cursory, imperfect, written under cramping circumstances, giving only here and there a note of the full utterance of the man. Passages there are that come upon you like splendor out of heaven; bursts of radiance, illuminating the very heart of the thing; you say, "That is true; spoken once and forever; whereasver and whenever there is an open human soul, that will be recognized as true." . . . It was with him, then, as it is with us all. No man works save under conditions. The sculptor carves his own free. The thought of his thought as he could translate it into the stone was given with the tools that were given. *Disejts membra* are all that we find of any poet, or of any man. — THOMAS CARLYLE, in "Heroes and Hero Worship."

*

At last you have found the true life of Jesus. I think it is like the marvel and mystery of nature, so familiar and yet so strange, so perpetually repeated in our sight, and yet so far away from our comprehension of it. Let me see if our imagination can the wonder that fills the woods and will burst forth between the very bricks of city streets — the ever old, ever new mystery of the growing and flowering of a plant. The flower opens on the stalk; but the flower is not the life, for you may pluck it off by leaf, and the plant still lives. The stalk builds its strong fibres; but its fibres are not life, for they may all be perfect and the plant be dead. The hungry roots reach out into the fertile ground; but the roots are not life, only wonderful channels to bear the life that has been given them. Not until you see the earth give itself to the sun, and turning into sap, send it through the wavy veins until it fuses into color far up in the air — not until you have gone back where you can go no farther, and really found the life. So here is the perfect flower of the life

of Jesus. It is the blood-red flower of the cross. Is that pain life? Surely not. The thief beside Him bears pain too, and we can call it only death. Is life, then, the experience that brings the pain? The injustice of the rulers, the mocking of the people, the brutalities of the soldiers? Is that His life? No, surely not. The deepest, most abiding experiences of all these experiences, is it, that deep compulsion that lay underneath it all? Is it that necessity which has been on Him all His days that He should do His Father's will, that compulsion which has brought Him to the cross? Not yet have we attained the life, for mere obedience may be mere death. But behind all there lies the idea of Jesus, that God is His Father, and that He may make these men know that He is their Father too. When that is touched, behold the miracle! See how the dry roots of obedience fill themselves with love; see how the old stalk of experience grows soft and pliable, and purposes, and then see how the flower of salvation — life — softens more than itself, and tells the world that story which it is the struggle of all pain and pleasure in the career of Christ to tell, which all healthy pain or pleasure in the career of man is tempting him to learn — of man's unbroken sonship to his Father, of the belonging of his soul to the soul of God. — PHILLIPS BROOKS, in "The Influence of Jesus."

A bright New Year, and a sunny track
Along an upward way.
And a song of praise on looking back,
When the year has passed away,
And golden sheaves nor small nor few!
This is my New Year's wish for you!
— Frances Ridley Havergal.

NOTES FROM ALASKA.

BY MISS CLEMENTINA BUTLER.

[Concluded.]

BEFORE leaving the river, we pass along the trail that borders it for half a mile, and which is kept open with difficulty owing to the luxuriant vegetation that encroaches rapidly from above, below, and on all sides, noting the magnificent trees which tower over eighty feet above the thick underbrush, while a fallen giant measures over ten feet in diameter, and is a perfect forest in itself, the young trees, bushes and ferns springing fast from the rich coating of moss and lichens on the trunk. Where trees have been cut down, in almost every case, new trees are growing on their stumps, and one sees trees of great size with their boles six or eight feet from the ground. I cannot recall any spot of tropic loveliness more attractive than this river bank. The salmon-berry bushes crowd on every side, and hang their brilliant scarlet and yellow berries within tempting reach, while the huckleberries of several varieties show rich promise, and the cranberries surpass any ever grown on the Cape, for flavor. All this is beautiful; but what must it be in winter? we ask.

Wending our way back to the town, we ascend the long stairs that lead to old Barnoff's castle, and call on the genial Signal Service officer, who is continuing the records kept by the Russians for fifty years past. His office is in the rooms occupied by Secretary Seward, and afterwards by Lady Franklin during her stay in Sitka. "Temperature — certainly — it was down to zero last winter for the first time in four years." Average for the summer months is given as 55 degrees, and for winter 31 degrees. We were almost ready to advocate a general exodus from New England, till reminded of the seven feet of rain-fall that presents serious drawbacks. Land may be had for the clearing, but the clearing costs about one thousand dollars an acre, and no title deeds can be secured in the present state of the laws, or rather absence of land laws.

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— Miss Kerr, who used to be Queen Victoria's private secretary, lately died at the age of ninety-five years. She was an accomplished linguist, and a student so indefatigable that at the time of her death she was studying Icelandic to be better able to understand the Sagas.

— Mrs. Amella B. Edwards, the English novelist and archaeologist, has been lecturing on "Old Egypt" to crowded houses.

— Dr. Eva Harding has been appointed physician to the new Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Atchison, Kan.

— Mrs. Jeannette Thurber, herself a good business woman, has offered five hundred dollars toward the establishment of a school for the business training of women.

— Mrs. Sollier, a handsome mulatto woman, wife of a (French) Biscétre professor, has passed her examinations, and been received as a Doctor of the Paris Faculty. A treatise of hers, on "The State of Denition in Idiotic and Deformed Children," has been highly commended.

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— Madame Sadl-Carnot, wife of the new President of France, is a woman of rare accomplishments and tact, and her linguistic acquirements are said to be unusual. She has the reputation of being the best read woman in France. She has four daughters, two of whom are married, and one son.

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The Sunday School.

FIRST QUARTER, LESSON III.

Sunday, January 15.

Matt. 14: 22-30.

BY REV. W. O. HOLWAY, U. S. N.

JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA.

I. The Lesson Introduced.

1. GOLDEN TEXT: "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid" (Matt. 14: 27).

2. DATE: A. D. 29, in the spring; immediately after the last lesson.

3. PLACE: Sea of Galilee.

4. PARALLEL NARRATIVES: Mark 6: 45-52; John 6: 15-21.

HOME READINGS.

Monday. Jesus walking on the sea, Matt. 14: 22-30.

Tuesday. Jesus praying, John 17: 1-11.

Wednesday. The Red Sea, Exod. 14: 21-31.

Thursday. Ruler of the sea, Psas. 77: 11-20.

Friday. Storm and calm, Psas. 107: 23-31.

Saturday. Fear not, Isa. 41: 8-14.

Sunday. The tempest stilled, Mark 4: 35-41.

it, buffeting the waves of a squally, tempestuous sea. It is perilous and exhausting work to pull all night in an open boat against a head wind and sea. The wind was contrary—blowing from the north or northeast (Lange); from the west or northwest, in case they were heading for the GalileanBeth-sa.

25. Fourth watch—between three and six in the morning. Jesus went (R. V., "He came") unto them—just when they had reached the very end of their endurance. Notice that Jesus came Himself—did not send an angel, or speak the word that would still the wind and calm the sea. Walking upon the sea.—The fact is attested by three Evangelists; the method is inexplicable. Miracles cannot be accounted for. Mark adds: "And would have passed by them," His purpose being to try their faith and provoke their prayer. Schaff speaks of this as "an anticipation of Christ's spiritual body, which manifested itself in the transfiguration, and became real after the resurrection."

The disciples probably concluded, when the storm came on, that Jesus had made a mistake in ordering them to sail away across the lake while He remained behind. The event, however, rebuked this hasty judgment. Their experience, in this instance, was fitted to teach a lesson for life, not rashly to infer mismanagement or neglect on Christ's part from temporary mishaps, but to have a firm faith in His wise and loving care, and to anticipate a happy issue out of all perplexities (Bruce).

V. The Lesson Illustrated.

1. THE VALUE OF THE NIGHT'S EXPERIENCE.

We can scarcely doubt that in after years that moment came back to their recollection, invested for them, as it has since been for the church at large, with something of a symbolic character. Often the sky became dark, and the waves of a troublesome world were rough, and the blasts of persecution beat on them and the ark of Christ's church was tossed on them and the waves were wearied and spent with rolling. Then through them, they would see or feel once again the tokens of His presence. He was coming to them through the storm. "Be of good cheer," became the watchword of their lives (Elliot).

2. ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP.

Once before He had spent in the mountain solitudes a night of lonely prayer, but that it was before the choice of His beloved apostles, and the glad tidings of His earliest and happiest ministry. Far different were the feelings with which the great High Priest now climbed the rocky stairs of that great mountain altar, in which His temple of the night seemed to lift Him nearer to the stars of God. The murder of His beloved forerunner brought home to His soul nearly the thought of death; nor was He deceived by this brief vision of a falsely-founded hope, which on the spur of a moment of quietness, had closed. He died of cancerous humor. The last year of his life his sufferings were very severe. His faith, confidence, and patience were unmatched to the last. Many members of the Eastern Conference and the clergy of that denomination have died, and are interred at his house. His name will long remain fresh in the church and in the community where he lived.

A devoted wife and three children mourn their loss, and purposed to meet him in the better land.

though we sometimes differ decidedly from Him.

3. Communion with the Father was so precious to our Lord that He forgot bodily fatigue and denied Himself sleep that He might enjoy it.

4. Obedience to Christ may sometimes lead us into danger, but we find Him then "a present help in trouble."

5. "It is an uncommon thing even now for those who profess that they know Christ, to be so utterly perplexed when trouble comes upon them, as to regard even Christianity itself as something visionary" (Isidorus Glarius).

6. We are often left to battle with difficulties to the point of exhaustion and despair, while over us all the white is a sleepless Eye, and towards us, in some unexpected way, over the waves of trouble, compass our help.

7. Conceit and presumption bring us often to humiliating failures.

8. There can be no storm where Jesus is; and He is the true Haven for our souls.

Mrs. DE WOLFE.

most terrible, were prolonged beyond our utmost expectation. But the angels came at last on the 30th of September, and bore his soul away at the age of 90 years. What, then, could we do but thank God for his release from suffering?

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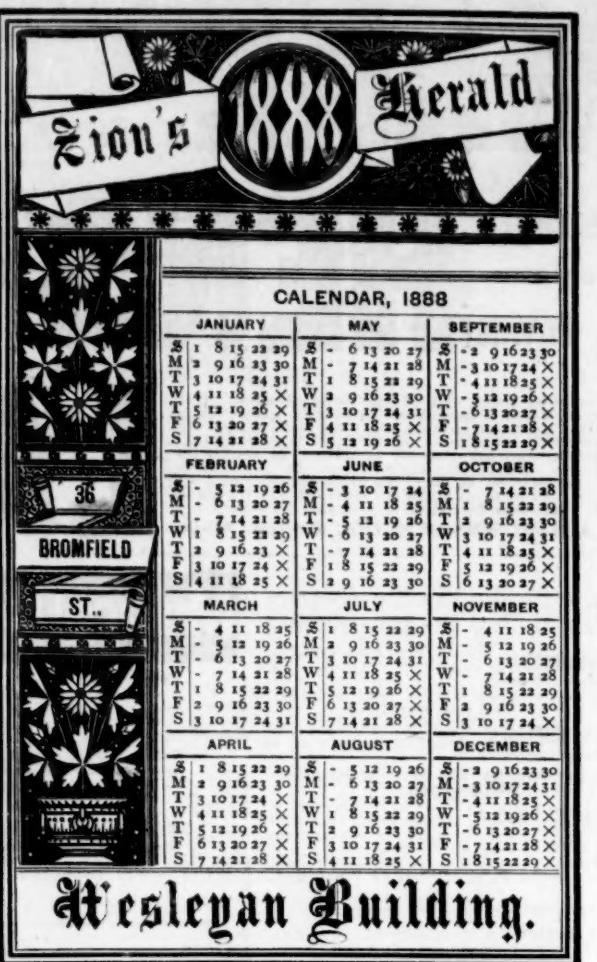
Brother Wescott was converted at nineteen years of age, under Rev. Cyrus Prindle, who was his friend through life. He early joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, and preached the Gospel in its simplicity and power. 1,453 souls were added to the church under his care during his ministry. We often read the biographies of great ministers—who have written that classics were but rarely read, indeed we do not, or hear, of one whose whole education was so much good for the Master. Brother Wescott's example and counsel acted as a religious stimulant to the pastor and people. Over 1,000 persons during these last ten years he has been a resident of the church.

Brother Wescott received in his last days a sweet remembrance for his faithful care of the orphan he had so tenderly loved. Though the care of his five little ones demanded so much time and attention, he never forgot his duty to his parents in their need, and right royal did his husband stand by them, loving and efficiently to the last, giving himself almost no rest until the change came to his father.

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With this number of ZION'S HERALD we enter upon a new year. We are sorry to part company with any of our readers, but instead of the cheerful greeting, "I renew my subscription," the doleful summons sometimes comes, "Stop my paper."

We hope every minister will make an effort, not only to keep his list good, but add many new names.

Some preachers have reported a large increase, and we are hoping others will give the same encouraging report.

The Week.

AT HOME.

President Cleveland's jubilee gift to the Pope was a copy of the United States Constitution.

The Interstate Commerce Commissioners have referred to Congress the question whether express companies are subject to the interstate commerce law.

Bessie Hillyer, the Washington girl who eloped with young Bullock of Baltimore a short time ago, has now petitioned for a divorce.

The funeral of ex-Secretary Manning at Albany was attended by President Cleveland, members of the Cabinet and many other distinguished men.

The late Wm. Hilton bequeathed conditionally about \$50,000 to various public institutions, principally in Boston.

A car containing twenty passengers was thrown down a one hundred-foot embankment in Pennsylvania, and only one man was killed. No one else was seriously injured.

Several prominent authors and publishers met in this city and organized a local association to co-operate with the Authors' Copyright League of New York to promote the cause of international copyright.

Rev. Lyman Abbott has been selected as pastor of Plymouth Church at the same salary paid Mr. Beecher. No definite term of service has been fixed, and it is probable that Mr. Abbott will remain permanently as Mr. Beecher's successor.

A train on the Pittsburgh and Western Road fell through a trestle last week, killing thirty feet. No loss of life is reported, although the wreck was set on fire by car stoves.

Nathan Reed, of Lee County, Ga., who lived unhappily with his wife, killed her and his six children recently, set fire to the house, and then killed himself.

Judge Bell, known far and wide as "King of the Apostles Islands," died on Friday at Ashland, Wis. For nearly half a century he established what was practically a little monarchy in the wilderness. He was 83 years old, and was the oldest living settler on the historic spot where Marquette founded his mission two hundred years ago.

At the annual dinner of the Boston Merchants' Association the question of commercial union with Canada was discussed by prominent gentlemen from that country and our own.

Governor Marmaduke of Missouri died last week at Jefferson City of pneumonia. He was born in Missouri, and was appointed a cadet from that State at West Point Military Academy in 1853. He was graduated on July 1, 1857, as a Brevet Second Lieutenant of Infantry. He served on frontier duty at Fort Laramie, Dak., 1857-58; Utah Expedition 1858-59, and was stationed in New Mexico until 1861, when he joined the Confederate Army. He was known chiefly as a leader in the Indian warfare. He took a prominent part in Missouri politics and served as State Railway Commissioner for some time. He was prominent in the Southwestern Railway troubles.

W. W. Corcoran, the aged millionaire philanthropist, celebrated his eighty-ninth birthday at Washington on the 27th. Congratulations poured in upon him by telegraph and through the mails, and many of his friends also sent flowers and other tokens of their esteem.

Commissioner Carroll D. Wright's third annual report of the Bureau of Labor shows that during the last six years there have been 3,903 strikes in this country, involving 22,336 establishments, from which New York suffered more than any other locality.

The reduction of the public debt in December amounted to \$15,250,000.

There were two fatal accidents on Saturday. Six persons were killed and many injured by a collision on the Cincinnati Southern Railway, and five were killed on the New York, Pennsylvania & Ohio Railway near Meadville.

Church Register.

HERALD CALENDAR.
New Bedford District Preachers' Meeting, at Pleasant Street Ch., New Bedford, Feb. 6-8
Providence District Ministerial Association at Campello, Mass., Feb. 13, 14, 15, 1888

CONFERENCE.—PLATE. TIME. BISHOP.

New York, N. Y. Mon. 26th, 1888.

New York, E. Middlesex Co., April 4. Foss

New York, N. Y. April 4. Foster

New England, Milford, Mass. April 4. Andrews

Eng'td St. Providence, R. I. April 4. Merrill

Vermont, April 11. Foster

Portland, Me. April 11. Foster

East German, N. Y. April 11. Foster

Troy, N. H. April 11. Foster

New Hampshire, Tilton, N. H. April 11. Foster

East Maine, Rockland, April 11. Foster

Wyoming, Oneonta, N. Y. April 11. Walder

POST-OFFICE ADDRESSES.

Rev. O. H. Fernando, Bucksport, Me.

Rev. A. W. Baker, South Pasadena, Cal.

NOTICE.—The annual meeting of the New England Methodist Historical Society will be held in Wesleyan Hall, 36 Bromfield St., Boston, Jan. 18, at 10 a. m. Rev. Geo. S. Chadbourne, Pres., will deliver the annual address. Directors will meet at 9 a. m. All invited.

R. W. ALLEN, Cor. Secy.

THE ROCKLAND DISTRICT MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION will hold its next session at Waldboro', Feb. 20-22.

[Full programme next week.]

W. F. M. SOCIETY.—The quarterly meeting of the New England Branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Tremont St. M. E. Church. Executive meeting at 9:45. Public sessions at 10:30 and 1:30. Mrs. J. Tracy, of Mississ., Mrs. Hill, of Baltimore; and Mrs. Garrison, of Chelmsford, will be addressed by Mrs. Smyth, of Fowey, and by Rev. Dr. Griffin, now of Boston.

Ladies attending are expected to bring lunch, and tea and coffee will be served at the vestry. The Tremont Street horse cars pass the church frequently. The unusually full and attractive programme should ensure a large attendance from all auxiliaries in the vicinity of Boston.

C. A. RICHARDSON, Rec. Secy.

JUBILEE SERVICE.—On Friday, Jan. 6, at the Chestnut Street Church, Providence, a Jubilee Service will be held under the leadership of Rev. Thos. Harrison, formerly United States Senator, as far as ascertained, of the revival still in progress in that church. The services will consist of a "Pente costal" meeting at 6 o'clock p. m. Jubilee sermons at 10:30 and 3. Love-feast at 2. Young people's meeting at 6:30. Sermon by Rev. T. Harrison at 7:30. Love-feast or general revival service. All preachers and speakers from the surrounding country are invited to attend.

EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—The regular meeting of the Boston Evangelical Ministers' Association will be held on Monday, Jan. 9, at 10 a. m. in Chapel Hall (Tremont Temple). Election of officers for the ensuing year, report of the Committee on the Davis master; introduction of new ministers to the Association. A brief report of the religious condition of the churches will be given by five or six clergymen representing as many cities. N. B. JONES, Jr., Clerk.

NOTICE.—The Preachers' Aid Committee are requested to meet in the Committee Room, Wesleyan Building, Bromfield St., Boston, Monday, Jan. 8, at 1:30 p. m. A full attendance is requested C. N. SMITH.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—A devotional meeting, under the auspices of the W. F. M. Society, will be held in the South St. Church on the day appointed for prayer for Missionaries. In the week of prayer, Friday, Jan. 6, at 9:30 p. m. Let us come together and unite our petitions for a blessing on the workers at home and abroad.

Y. W. C. A.—During the week of prayer, commencing Monday, Jan. 1, there will be services every evening at 6 o'clock, in the hall of the Young Women's Christian Association, on Berkeley St., corner of Appleton St. All are cordially invited to be present.

NOTICE.—The Augusta District Preachers' Meeting will be held at Waterville, Me., Jan. 23-26, 1888. If you are coming, please let me know, with particulars. GEORGE A. CRAWFORD.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

BOSTON DISTRICT.—FOURTH QUARTER.

JAN.
1, a. m., Franklin: 15, eve, Newton Lo. Falls;
1, p. m., West Medway: 15, eve, Easton Sq.;
1, eve, Holliston: 15, eve, Appleton Ch.;
2, People's Ch.; 15, eve, Hyde Park;
4, Highland Ch.; 15, eve, James' Plain;
5, Alston: 15, eve, South Walpole;
6, St. John's: 15, eve, Washington; 15, eve, Newell; 15, eve, Union;
8, eve, Ashland: 15, eve, Newton Ch.;
11, Washington: 15, eve, Mattapan;
12, Brockline: 15, eve, Westborough;
15, Wollaston: 15, eve, Shrewsbury;
15, a. m., Winthrop: 15, eve, Miss. Boston.

ABROAD.

The crown prince of Germany's physicians have issued a bulletin expressing satisfaction with his general condition.

The Spanish government has decided to celebrate the fourth centenary of the discovery of America.

The czarina gave audience last week to Lord Randolph Churchill, who presented her letters from the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Edinburgh.

The Prussian and German departments of justice have commissioned Judge Ascheroft to study and report upon the American penal system, with the view of making it the basis of a new system in Germany.

Mahmud Ajelaleddin, the author of the new budget scheme for balancing the revenues and expenditures in Turkey, has been appointed Minister of Finance in place of Zabid Pasha.

The Gautemalan revolutionists have been thoroughly routed in a bloody battle.

Advices from Massoway say that the British mission to Abyssinia was unsuccessful in its efforts to induce King John to sue for peace, and that the Italians are jubilant over the failure. King John of Abyssinia is advancing upon Massoway by rapid stages. He has under his command three bodies of troops.

A broker blew out his brains in a Madrid theatre last Friday evening. This caused a panic, which resulted in injury to about one hundred people.

The Russian press censors excised the Russian article in the November number of the Century magazine.

The Bulgarian Sobranje, at a secret sitting, unanimously voted £22,000,000 for fortifying Bulgarian ports.

The dethronement of King Kalakaua is threatened.

Reductions of judicial rents are proclaimed throughout all Ireland.

Resignation of the Servian ministry is announced; M. Ristic's retirement is regarded as a check to Russia.

Lord Stanley, who has accepted the Governor Generalship of Canada, is brother and heir of the Earl of Derby, is 46 years old, and has been in Parliament since 1865. He has been of the Admiralty, Financial Secretary to the War Office, Secretary of State for War under Disraeli's two administrations, Secretary of State for the Colonies in Lord Salisbury's first Cabinet, and President of the Board of Trade in the present Government. He was made a Baron last year. He married Lady Constance Villiers.

Mr. Gladstone will return to London for the opening of Parliament.

The Seminary Chapel at Quebec, which contained valuable paintings valued at \$50,000, was burned on Sunday.

It is expected that the value of the gifts to the Pope in connection with his golden jubilee will represent \$20,000,000. The Pope celebrated his golden jubilee on Sunday at the high altar of St. Peter's.

A great popular demonstration and serenade was given on Sunday in honor of Mr. Gladstone at Florence.

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